Student/Parent Mock Election

Frequently Asked Questions

for
Superintendents

1. **What is the Mock Election and who is conducting this project?**

   A Mock Election is a process by which students get to vote on their favorite candidates without having their vote count in the "official election". In our Mock Election, Louisiana's students will get to vote for a presidential candidate and have their votes tallied with other students across the nation. The Secretary of State's Office in conjunction with Cox Communications and the National Student/Parent Mock Election is conducting the election.

2. **What is the National Student/Parent Mock Election?**

   The National Student/Parent Mock Election is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that makes students aware of the power of their ballot by actively involving them in a full-fledged campaign and national election. Over 40 million people have participated since the project began in 1980.

3. **When is the Mock Election taking place?**

   Students may vote at any time during the Mock Election from October 20th to October 30th. This will give schools an opportunity to pick a day (or multiple days) that works best for the school.

   NOTE: Voting must be completed prior to 1:00pm on October 30, 2008.

4. **Why should I encourage my schools to participate in the program?**

   This is a fantastic educational opportunity for students. It gives them a vested interest in who is elected president, and it stokes interest in the voting process at an early age.

   Additionally, Cox Communications has decided to conduct a computer giveaway. All participating schools will be entered in the drawing.

5. **How do schools enroll in this process?**

   Participating schools should sign up online at www.nationalmockelection.org. Click the Enroll Now button in the upper left corner of the webpage. Schools may also go to the Secretary of State's website (www.geauxvote.com) where there is a link to the online enrollment form. The form will ask for information regarding the name and location of the school, the contact information for the school coordinator, and the estimated amount of students participating.

6. **When is the deadline for my schools to register?**

   October 20, 2008 is the deadline to register but we strongly encourage schools to register as early as possible. Registering early gives schools more time to plan and conduct their election.

7. **How is the Mock Election organized?**

   - Participating schools logon to the Secretary of State's website (www.GeauxVote.com) to register their school or child (in the event of a home schooled child.)

   - The sign in sheet will ask for pertinent information like the school's contact information and the number of students expected to participate.

   - Schools will then be sent unique PIN numbers for each expected student to be used on Election Day.

   - Schools may then elect a Registrar and Clerk for the election. The offices can be selected by a vote of the student council or the entire student body.

       - The Registrar will be in charge of the student list (i.e. the voter roll) and PIN number. They will make sure that each student is assigned a PIN and that each student only votes once.

       - The Clerk will be in charge of conducting the election. On the day of the election, students will be sent to their computer lab or library to access the computers. Students can be sent alphabetically or by class. The election can be conducted all on one day or over several days.

   - Schools may also elect to have the duties of the Registrar and Clerk conducted by a member of the faculty. This might be a particularly good idea for middle and elementary school students.

8. **What equipment is needed to vote?**

   At least one computer with internet access is needed to participate in the voting process.

9. **How do the students vote?**

   Once seated at a computer (i.e. voting booth), each student will logon to the website, enter their unique PIN number, and cast their ballot for the election.

10. **When can the students vote?**

    Once you have received the PIN numbers for your students, they may vote at any time during the Mock Election from October 20th to October 30th. This will give you an opportunity to pick a day (or multiple days) that works best for your school.

11. *How long should the voting process take?*

Based on private elections conducted by the Secretary of State's Outreach Division, the voting process can take roughly 30 to 45 seconds per student.

12. *What is the Celebration Event?*

The Celebration Event is as a culmination of voting activities that will be held at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge on October 30, 2008.

13. *Who is invited to the Celebration Event?*

Superintendents will select one high school boy and one high school girl along with one chaperone for each student to attend the event. Government officials and spokespersons for the Obama and McCain campaigns will also deliver speeches about the importance of civic engagement.

14. *When is the deadline for submitting the names of the students that will attend the Celebration Event?*

October 9, 2008 is the deadline to submit the attendant's name.

15. *What information is needed for the attendants and where should the information be sent?*

The student/chaperone first and last name, school, and T-shirt size should be submitted to Anita Sexton with the Secretary of State's Outreach Division at asexton@sos.louisiana.gov .

16. *Who is eligible for the computer drawing and when will the drawing take place?*

All schools that enroll in the program, cast their votes, and the appointed delegates represent your area at the Celebration Event will be entered.
   NOTE: Superintendents <u>must</u> send delegates (one boy and one girl) in order for participating schools to be entered. The drawing will be conducted once the Mock Election is concluded.

17. *When will the results be available?*

Results will be available on the afternoon of October 30, 2008.

18. *Who should we contact if we have a question or comment?*

Please call the Secretary of State's Outreach Division at 225-342-4479 if you have any questions.